

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02
ICA-20 SS-15 NSC-05 LAB-04 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----006263 090125Z /64
P 082339Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1941
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 12926

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, MX
SUBJECT: CHICANOS TO SEEK GOM AID IN SAFEGUARDING THEIR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S.

1. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED TO THE MEXICAN PRESS AND COVERED
IN THE AUGUST 4 EDITION OF MEXICO CITY DAILY "UNO MAS UNO",
U.S. CHICANO LEADER REIES LOPEZ TIJERINA, HEAD OF THE
ALLIANCE OF FREE PEOPLE (ALIANZA DE LOS PUEBLOS LIBRES),
STATED THAT HE AND EIGHT OTHER CHICANO LEADERS NOW VISITING
MEXICO WOULD ASK PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP) TO
CLEARLY DEFINE HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION RE THE "DAILY
VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHICANO COMMUNITY IN
THE U.S." LOPEZ TIJERINA SAID THAT, BECAUSE PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES, JLP SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THE SAME TO
CARTER. THE MEETING WITH JLP WAS SCHEDULED FOR MORNING
OF AUGUST 4.

2. LOPEZ TIJERINA RELEASED HIS STATEMENT DURING A MEETING
BETWEEN NINE CHICANO LEADERS AND DR. EDMUNDO FLORES,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MEXICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (CONACYT). THE PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO
DETERMINE THE RECIPIENTS OF GOM-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS TO
BE GRANTED TO 50 MEXICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS. CONACYT IS
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ADMINISTRATING GOM AGENCY FOR THE GRANTS, WHICH WERE
STARTED UNDER ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA.
THESE 50 SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE THE SECOND GENERATION OF
GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM AND REPORTEDLY WILL BE WORTH A
TOTAL OF US\$250,000.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

CHICANO COMMUNITY VISITING MEXICO WITH LOPEZ TIJERINA ARE JUDGE JOSE ANGEL GUTIERREZ OF ZAVALA, TEXAS; ARMANDO AND LUZ GUTIERREZ OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RURAL DEMOCRACY (COMITE PARA LA DEMOCRACIA RURAL); EDUARDO MORGA, A REPRESENTATIVE OF LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LIGA DE CIUDADANOS LATINOAMERICANOS UNIDOS); PALINA JACOBO AND MIRIAM OJEDA, OF THE NATIONAL CHICANO FOUNDATION (FUNDACION NACIONAL CHICANA); JUAN PATLAN, OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF LA RAZA (CONSEJO NACIONAL DE LA RAZA; AND ABEL AMAYA.

4. IN SAME EDITION OF "UNO MAS UNO", JUDGE JOSE ANGEL GUTIERREZ STATED THAT THE CHICANO COMMUNITY IS OPPOSED TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM TOWARD UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND PREDICTED THE PROGRAM'S DEFEAT. GUTIERREZ FEELS THAT CARTER PROGRAM IS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST MEXICANS AS "IT WOULD PERMIT ENTRY OF BRACEROS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT DO NOTHING TO ELIMINATE THE INJUSTICES WHICH OCCUR IN THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS." GUTIERREZ SAID THAT IN LAST FEW MONTHS CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS PERMITTED ENTRY OF A LARGE NUMBER OF JAMAICANS TO PICK APPLES IN VIRGINIA--"IN ORDER TO KEEP WAGES LOW"--AND HAS ALLOWED SOME MEMBERS OF MENNONITE RELIGIOUS SECT TO SETTLE IN WEST TEXAS--"UNDER THE EXCUSE THAT THE MENNONITES WERE BEING PERSECUTED IN MEXICO FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS." GUTIERREZ SAID THESE EXCEPTIONS HAVE TOTALLY DISCREDITED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. HE CHARACTERIZED CARTER PLAN AS "REFLECTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GREAT LIMITATIONS OF A MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW THE WORKINGS OF U.S. POLITICS AND WHO CANNOT HANDLE A PROBLEM OF THIS MAGNITUDE." ACCORDING TO GUTIERREZ THE CHICANO COMMUNITY WILL OPPOSE THE CARTER PROGRAM WITH ALL ITS FORCE AND RESOURCES. HE PREDICTED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE DEFEATED IN PART BECAUSE OF CHICANO POLITICAL ACTIVISM. HE MENTIONED THAT CHICANOS ARE GAINING INCREASING POLITICAL POWER AND INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. AND THAT SOON "THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD HAVE A BROWN TINT."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHICANO GROUP MET WITH JLP AS SCHEDULED, NO SUBSEQUENT REPORTS OF THE MEETING HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS RELEASES, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO12926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780325-0022
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780888/aaaacvmi.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d230467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1805689
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHICANOS TO SEEK GOM AID IN SAFEGUARDING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S.
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SOCI, MX, US, (LOPEZ TIJERINA, REIES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d230467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014